



METEOROLOGICAL OFFICE

ESTIMATED SOIL MOISTURE DEFICIT AND POTENTIAL
EVAPOTRANSPIRATION OVER GREAT BRITAIN

SOIL MOISTURE DEFICIT AT 0900 GMT 30 AUGUST 1978

With high pressure to the west or southwest of the country, the period from the date of the last bulletin (16 August 1978) has been mainly settled and dry over most of England and Wales although some rather heavy rainfall occurred in the southwest on 19th, North Wales on 21st and Lincolnshire on 22nd. Weather in Scotland was more unsettled in the first week with rainfall on many days, the 21st being a particularly wet day over the south of the country. The second week was almost rain free over much of England and Wales but general rain occurred in Northern Scotland. In parts of southern England no measurable precipitation occurred in the whole fortnight and over **virtually** the whole of Britain, rainfall was less than average for the fortnight.

Following the prolonged dry weather, deficits have increased over all River Division areas in the past fortnight and, and at many localities in England they are now at the highest value so far. Deficits are still below the general average for time of year over English River Divisions ~~from~~ **Yorkshire** down to Norfolk and Suffolk, in Hampshire, Avon and Dorset, Mersey and Weaver, and Dee and Clwyd; elsewhere they are above average and well above average in Cornwall, most of Wales and Cumbria. Over River Purification Board areas (except Clyde) deficits have also increased generally over the fortnight.

RATES OF SUBSCRIPTION: £15.00 per season (post free)

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ESTIMATED SOIL MOISTURE DEFICIT (S.M.D.)
AT 09 GMT ON 30 AUG 1978

River Area	Estimated Areal	Change during the week ending 09 GMT on	
	S.M.D. mm	30 Aug 1978 mm	23 Aug 1978 mm
Northumbrian	57.0	+ 6.7	+ 9.9
Yorkshire	53.7	+ 7.5	+ 4.3
Trent	58.5	+ 6.4	+ 7.2
Lincolnshire	57.0	+ 10.2	+ 8.7
Welland and Nene	71.5	+ 6.0	+ 14.9
Great Ouse	77.6	+ 9.2	+ 16.0
Norfolk and Suffolk	78.2	+ 8.6	+ 15.3
Essex	106.9	+ 10.7	+ 19.2
Lee Division	100.7	+ 9.3	+ 19.9
Thames Conservancy	83.4	+ 10.0	+ 14.2
London Area	105.8	+ 9.3	+ 20.4
Kent	106.9	+ 5.8	+ 17.0
Sussex	101.9	+ 11.2	+ 20.6
Hampshire	75.2	+ 10.5	+ 12.5
Isle of Wight	107.2	+ 13.0	+ 22.0
Upper Thames	79.2	+ 12.8	+ 11.8
Avon and Dorset	73.0	+ 13.9	+ 7.3
Devon	76.9	+ 14.9	+ 11.0
Cornwall	77.0	+ 15.5	+ 8.4
Somerset	73.2	+ 13.7	+ 9.2
Bristol Avon	80.1	+ 13.5	+ 11.7
Severn	66.9	+ 9.2	+ 11.6
Wye	72.7	+ 11.3	+ 18.7
Usk	58.1	+ 12.6	+ 13.1
Glamorgan	46.2	+ 12.8	+ 5.7
South West Wales	41.6	+ 12.2	+ 3.3
Gwynedd	41.2	+ 7.8	+ 1.5
Dee and Clwyd	43.7	+ 7.2	+ 4.2
Mersey and Weaver	43.4	+ 9.1	+ 1.1
Lancashire	38.3	+ 10.1	+ 7.5
Cumbria	62.8	+ 9.3	+ 8.1

N.B. Apart from normal changes these differences also reflect retrospective adjustments after receipt of additional data.



